The armourers, accomplishing the knights,
With busy hammers closing rivets up[3],
Give dreadful note of preparation.
The country cocks do crow, the clocks do toll,
And the third hour of drowsy morning name[4].
Proud of their numbers, and secure in soul,
The confident and over-lusty[5] French
Do the low-rated English play at dice[6];

—— innumera resonant incucle
Mycenae.
Achill. i. 4-14.
STEEVENS.

[3] The armourers, accomplishing the knights
With busy hammers closing RIVETS up.] This does not solely refer to the business of rivetting the plate armour before it was put on, but as to part when it was on. Thus the top of the cuirass had a little projecting bit of iron that passed through a hole pierced through the bottom of the casque. When both were put on, the smith or armourer presented himself with his rivetting hammer, *to close the rivet up*: so that the party's head should remain steady notwithstanding the force of any blow that might be given on the cuirass or helmet. This custom more particularly prevailed in tournaments. See Varietes Historiques, 1752, 12mo. tom. ii. p. 73. DOUCE.

[4] And the third hour of drowsy morning NAME.] The old copy —nam'd. STEEVENS.

How much better might we read thus?

"The country cocks do crow, the clocks do toll
"And the third hour of drowsy morning *name*"

TYRWHITT.

I have admitted this very necessary and elegant emendation.

STEEVENS.

Sir T. Hanmer, with almost equal probability, reads:

"And the third hour of drowsy *morning's nam'd.*"

MALONE.

[5] over-msTY —] i. e. *over-saucy*. So, in Sir Thomas North's translation of Plutarch: "** Cassius's soldiers did shewe themselves verie stubborne and *lustie* in the campe," &c.

STEEVENS.

[6] Do the low-rated English play at dice·] i. e. do play them

away at dice. WARBURTON.

From Holinshed: "The Frenchmen in the mean while as though they had been sure of victory made great triumphe for the captaines had determined before how to divide the spoil and the *souldiers the night before had plaid the Englishmen at dice*." MALONE.